

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NL, EEC, US, XF, ENRG

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO NETHERLANDS IN PRESS CONFERENCE;
EC DEMARCHE TO ARAB GOVERNMENTS

1. SUMMARY: MFA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VAN LYNDEN CALLED IN ECON AND POL COUNSELORS NOON NOVEMBER 22 TO REQUEST CONFIRMATION OF, AND BACKGROUND REGARDING, RADIO REPORT THAT SECRETARY IN NOV 21 PRESS CONFERENCE HAD MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF US ASSISTING NETHERLANDS WITH REGARD TO OIL PROBLEM. HE ALS CONFIDED TECHNIQUE AND SUBSTANCE OF DEMARCHES TO BE MADE TO ARAB GOVTS BY EC. END SUMMARY.

2. VAN LYNDEN NOTED THAT HE HAD CALLED COUNSELORS IN ON INSTURCTIONS OF HIS MINISTER AND IN RECOGNITION OF FACT THAT DCM WAS ON LEAVE AND AMBASSADOR GOULD WAS ABSENT FROM HAGUE ON OFFICIAL DUTIES IN LIMBURG. HE BEGAN BY REFERRING TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S MEETING WITH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL DURING NPG IN WHICH SECDEF HAD INDICATED HE AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD RECOMMEND TO PRESIDENT THAT US HELP NETHERLANDS WITH REGARD TO ITS OIL PROBLEM IF THAT BECAME NECESSARY. HE SAID GON HAD HEARD RADIO REPORT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS NOV 21 PRESS CONFERENCE HAD STATED US WOULD NOT "SUFFER BLACKMAIL" FOR VERY LONG; THAT IF THE ARABS DO NOT DESIST THE US MIGHT ENVISAGE COUNTERMEASURES, AND THAT THERE WAS POSSIBILITY US WOULD HELP NETHERLANDS AND OTHERS WITH REARD TO THEIR OIL SUPPLY PROBLEMS. THE GON, HE SAID, WOULD LIKE TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT SECRETARY HAD SAID AND ALSO WHAT THE STATUS WAS OF US CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR NETHERLANDS, A SUB-SECRET

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JECT WHICH HAS BEEN TREATED AS TOP SECRET BY GON. (FOLLOWING MEETING, VAN LYNDEN WAS PROVIDED WITH FULL TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY'S NOV 21 PRESS CONFERENCE AS CARRIED IN WIRELESS FILE).

3. VAN LYNDEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE TIME HAS NOT YET COME FOR GON TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE SINCE THERE IS STILL OIL "IN THE PIPELINE." HE ADDED THAT NETHERLANDS IS NOT A NATION TO CRY WOLF TOO SOON AND WANTS TO STAND ON ITS OWN FEET.

4. ECON COUNSELOR SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT WASHINGTON HAD BEEN WAITING TO SEE HOW OIL BOYCOTT WAS BEING APPLIED AND ENFORCED BY OPEC SUPPLIERS AND WHETHER AND TO WHAT DEGREE DUTCH PROBLEM WOULD BE EASED BY OIL SHARING WITHIN EUROPE. HE NOTED THAT DUTCH OIL REQUIREMENTS FELL INTO THREE "TIERS," I.E., (1) CRUDE AND PRODUCT IN TRANSIT, (2) CRUDE IN REFINING IN HOLLAND FOR EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS AND (3) CRUDE FOR REFINING IN HOLLAND FOR DUTCH DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, AND THAT DECISION AS TO HOW AND TO WHAT EXTENT THESE THREE LEVELS OF NEED MIGHT BE MET BY US AND OTHER ALLIES WAS DOUBTLESS STILL OPEN.

5. ECON COUNSELOR SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE US TO KNOW HOW SUCCESSFUL DUTCH HAD BEEN AT EC FONMIN MEETING IN COPENHAGEN IN OBTAINING COOPERATION OF THEIR EC PARTNERS IN SHARING OIL. VAN LYNDEN RESPONDED THAT OIL SHARING PER SE HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING, THAT IT WAS A MATTER BEING PURSUED IN OECD, AND THAT WHILE DUTCH WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC REGARDING RESULTS THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR COOPERATION ON THIS MATTER AMONG NINE. HE DID REVEAL THAT DUTCH HAD SPOKE TO FRENCH BILATERALLY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT GON WILL NOT INTERFERE IN EFFORTS BY OIL COMPANIES TO PERMIT OIL TO MOVE ABOUT UNDER WHAT HE TERMED "ARBITRAGE" ARRANGEMENTS (VAN LYNDEN ADMITTED TO VAGUENESS ON DETAILS BUT ACCEPTED OUR PRESUMPTION THAT ARBITRAGE WOULD INCLUDE SWAPS OF OPEC OIL FOR NON-ARAB OIL). HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF FRENCH REACTION IF ANY.

6. VAN LYNDEN THEN TURNED TO GON'S POLICY RE MIDDLE EAST WHICH HE SAID IS BASED ON EC'S NOV 6 DECLARATION AND WAS ELABORATED ON BY FONMIN VAN DER STOEL IN HIS NOV 19 WHITE PAPER ADDRESSED TO PARLIAMENT (THE HAGUE 5068). HE SAID THE SAUDIS HAD ASKED NETHERLANDS TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR COMMITTING AGGRESSION AND THIS THE GON WAS NOT PREPARED TO DO. HE COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE WORDING
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OF THE SUB-PARAGRAPHS OF PARA 3 OF THE EC'S NOV 6 DECLARATION, EMPHASIZING THE ENDING OF ISRAEL'S "TERRITORIAL OCCUPATION WHICH IT HAS MAINTAINED SINCE THE CONFLICT OF 1967" AND THE FACT THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS POLITICAL AS WELL AS HUMANITARIAN AND HAS TO BE SOLVED AS PART OF OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT FORMULATION IN SUB-PARAGRAPHS 1, 2 AND 4 OF PARAGRAPH 3 IS AS FAR AS GON WILL GO IN MEETING ARAB DEMANDS AND THAT THIS WAS MESSAGE CONVEYED TO ARABS BY AMBASSADORS DE LAVALETTE AND VAN ROIEN.

7. VAN LYNDEN THEN SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE US OF A DECISION WHICH THE NINE WITH SOME DIFFICULTY HAD TAKEN IN COPENHAGEN, WHICH WAS OF GREAT SENSITIVITY AND WHICH HE WAS REVEALING

WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE NINE. HE SAID THAT BETWEEN NOW AND NOV 26 AT THE LATEST, AN EC AMBASSADOR IN EACH ARAB CAPITAL WILL MAKE ORAL DEMARCHE ON BEHALF OF THE EC TO HOST GOVT. VAN LYNDEN READ RAPIDLY FROM TEXT AMBASSADORS WILL SPEAK FROM, NOTING THAT LANGUAGE IS "EXTREMELY DIPLOMATIC," BUT THAT DEMARCHE IS MEANT TO CONVEY TWO BASIC POINTS (1) THAT EC UNITY WILL NOT BE BREACHED BY ARAB TACTICS OF DISCRIMINATION (I.E. BOYCOTTS) AND (2) THAT EC COMMON POLICY TOWARD ME QUESTION WILL NOT BE WARPED BY ARAB PRESSURE (I.E. CUTBACKS). REFERENCE WILL BE MADE TO ACTIONS WHICH ARABS HAVE TAKEN AND THEIR EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION IN EC COUNTRIES. ATTENTION WILL BE CALLED TO THE ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF THE NINE TO MAKE A JOINT CONTRIBUTION TO A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. IT WILL BE MADE CLEAR THAT EUROPEAN UNITY IS AS IMPORTANT AS ARAB UNITY AND HOPE WILL BE EXPRESSED THAT ARAB GOVTS WILL TAKE THIS FACT INTO ACCOUNT. IN RESPONSE TO OUR PROBING VAN LYNDEN DESCRIBED POLICY OF THE NINE REGARDING MIDDLE EAST AS "COORDINATED" AND "CONSISTENT" RATHER THAN "UNIFIED."

8. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE PROVIDED GON IN RESPONSE TO VAN LYNDEN'S REQUEST FOR BACKGROUND CONCERNING STATUS OF USG'S CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO NETHERLANDS WITH REGARD TO OIL PROBLEM. WE NOTE FROM WIRELESS FILE TEXT OF SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE THAT "USG POSITION ON THIS POINT MAY BE FORMULATED BY EARLY PART OR MIDDLE PART OF NEXT WEEK." WE CAN ASSUME THAT GON WILL REMAIN ANXIOUS FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE ADVICE RE US INTENTIONS.

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9. DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED.
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